

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2833

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017

Quantitative Restriction on Imports

Ashok Kumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quantitative restriction on the import of many items has been brought to an end under the new policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has increased the basic customs duty on many products to address the interest of domestic producers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): Since 1995 when World Trade Organisation (WTO) came into existence, members were obliged to eliminate quantitative restrictions on imports/exports. India, being a responsible member of WTO, has been able to progressively remove quantitative restrictions on most of the goods. However, consistent with the Article XX (General Exceptions) of General Agreement on Tariff & Trade, 1994, a member can maintain restrictions on imports/exports on the grounds of protection of public morals; human, animal or plant life or health; patents, trademarks and copyrights, and prevention of deceptive practices; conservation of exhaustible natural resources; and protection of trade of fissionable material or material from which they are derived; preventing traffic in arms. Accordingly, India maintains restrictions on around 500 tariff lines under quantitative restrictions in the form of prohibition, restriction, or exclusive trading by State Trading Enterprises (STEs).

(c) & (d): In the Budget 2017-18, basic customs duty was increased from 30% to 45% on Cashew nut, roasted, salted or roasted and salted, and from 7.5% to 10% on RO membrane element for household type filters. Also, SAD of 2% was imposed on Populated Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) for the manufacture of mobile phones, subject to actual user condition.
